

Department of Marine and Fisheries/Ministère de la Marine et des Pêcheries
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RG 23, Volume 349

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Department of Marine and Fisheries/
Ministère de la Marine et des Pêcheries

RG 23, vol. 349
File/Dossier 3031
Part/partie 1

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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CANADA**

Department of Marine and Fisheries.
FISHERIES.

From

Address

Date

SUBJECT:

GENERAL LETTERS- STEAMER "RUTH".

FALCON

"Falcon"

No.

DATE.

CONTENTS.

ACTION.

Some papers transferred to Naval Service

40144

Dominion Fisheries.

FILE No 3031
FISHERIES
AUG 22 1904
CORRESPONDENCE
LETTER No 20893

Inspector's Office,

Port Essington, B. C., August 2nd 1904

Sir.-

I have the honor to submit an additional monthly report containing more detail than usual, as I consider at this important season of the year, the Department should be kept in close touch, all matters appertaining to the Fisheries in my District, viz No 2 Northern District British Columbia.

With regard to the work of the Steamer Ruth, I am pleased to report most favourable results, illegal fishing outside the mouth of the Skeena River, viz Chatham Sound, had almost become a recognized occurrence, the Officers hitherto in their small boats, were entirely unable to cope with it, consequently the fishermen were using long nets and were fishing at all hours during the weekly close season.

I have almost entirely put a stop to this practice, and they now recognise the fact that the Regulations will, and can be, enforced on the Skeena River.

During the month of July there have been about 35 cases of illegal fishing on the Skeena, and 5 or more on the Naas, I have not yet received the exact returns.

I am therefore able to report that owing to these seizures, illegal fishing has received a serious check.

This is owing in a great measure to the presence of the Ruth, and it is generally conceded that the Department acted judiciously and wisely in placing a Steamer on, in this District.

I have just returned from Rivers Inlet, where they are having a grand run of Sockeye, the best since 1896, I

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tried 33 cases of illegal fishing whilst there, we made several seizures with the Ruth, with this exception fishery matters are running smoothly, the Fishery officer in charge is giving general satisfaction.

I also located the Fishing Boundaries for traps and seines, 3 miles from the Boundary at the mouth of the Wammuck River, this being a Special locality as provided for in clause 12 Order in Council May 2nd 1904.

We called on our way North, at the different Drag seine creeks operated by Draney and Lowe Inlet Canneries, I found several of the Creeks barricaded, these I destroyed and fined the guilty parties.

With regard to Drag seines I must again call your attention to Clause 12, you will notice that the use of drag seines is prohibited within half a mile of any Salmon stream, this of course applies equally to Purse and Drag seines, if this Regulation were enforced on the canneries operating Drag seines, it would immediately close them up, as in every case where Drag seines are used, they are operated within 100 yards of the mouth of the Stream, the formation of the beach in nearly all cases necessitates this, if you oblige them to go out even 300 or 400 yards, they are unable to fish at all, as you are aware there are only a few places on this Coast where a Drag seine can be operated, and hitherto I have placed the Boundaries where I considered it would give the Drag seine a chance and also the salmon, in each case I have located the boundary in this manner, of course where it has been possible I have kept the Drag seine out as far from the Creeks as the Regulations call for.

I may say this has been the course pursued ever since I have had the honor of being in the service of the Department.

I am therefore not enforcing Clause 12 this season,

in connection with Drag seines, as had I done so it would have closed the Canneries as I said before, you will notice that I am referring to Drag seines only, it will be necessary for the Department to instruct me re this matter for next season

I may say that I conferred with Inspector Sword, re this matter, and he coincided with my views in allowing the matter to remain as hitherto for this season.

I may inform you that there are no Traps in operation in my District this season, though several trap licenses have been issued, but Purse seines are being operated all over the District, and in a few cases I believe are a success.

I had the honor of forwarding a Petition from the Skeena River Cannermen, re change of Close time, I also wrote advising this alteration, I trust the Department have decided in favor of this.

The Strike on the Skeena River that the Department wired me about, has resulted in the Cannermen giving 8 1/2 cents for Sockeye, there was no violence of any sort, some slight attempts at intimidation which I promptly inquired into and checked, the presence of the Ruth and the legal authority behind her effectually prevented any open rupture of the peace.

Fishery matters in my District are progressing very favourably indeed, all the different Fisheries are doing well and both Canneries and fishermen will make good money this season.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I am Sir

Your obedient servant

John P. Williams

Inspector of Fisheries.

Col. F. Gourdeau.

General report
J.V.V.

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23rd August 1904

Sir,-

I am interested in your report, dated the 2nd instant, on the efficient work of the S.S. "Ruth" in your charge, and the check to poaching in Chatham Sound and on the Skeena & Nass Rivers. With respect to the limits near river mouths within which drag-seines are to be worked, I am convinced that the present regulation is not workable, and it would be best to leave each case to the Inspector or local officer to decide the limits, and I shall advise amendment of the Regulations in that regard.

Re: the Skeena close time, I reported in favour of the change; but this season the matter has stood over. The splendid run at Rivers Inlet is very satisfactory. I shall await details re: the barracaded creeks (Draneys and others) and the other prosecutions referred to.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant.

E E Prince

Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries.

Mr J.T. Williams

Inspector of Fisheries

Port Essington B.C.

Sword

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12th September, 1904.

Gentlemen,

I have to request that you will forward to

John T. Williams, Esq.,
Inspector of Fisheries,
Port Essington, B. C.

three {3} one-yard Canadian Blue Ensigns;
one {1} three-yard Canadian Blue Ensign.

and forward account for same to me, here.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

xxxxxxXxGaurdeau
O. G. V Spain

Commanding Canadian Marine Service.

Messrs.
William Robertson & Sons,
Hardware Merchants, Halifax,
Nova Scotia.

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13th September, 1904

Sir,

I have to inform you that the name of the Government vessel "RUTH", is to be changed to "FALCON".

You will carry this out as soon as possible.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F Gourdeau

Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Jno. T. Williams, Esq.,

Inspector of Fisheries,

Port Essington, B. C.

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13th September, 1904.

Sir,

In reference to the insurance of the Government steamer "FALCON" (late "RUTH"). I have to inform you that as it is distinctly against the policy of the Government to insure vessels or ships belonging to any Department, it has been decided that an exception cannot be made in the case of this vessel.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F Gourdeau

Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Jno. T. Williams, Esq.,

Inspector of Fisheries,

Port Essington, B. C.

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13th Sept., 1904.

Sir,

As it is apparently unnecessary for the "FALCON" (late "RUTH"), to be in commission all the year round, you will see that she is laid up in Cole Harbour, Vancouver, from about the middle of November to the end of February, when any work in regard to necessary repairs, painting, etc., may be done.

The Captain is to remain in charge of her during this period, at half-pay; and his wages may be increased from \$75 to \$85. per month, beginning from the 1st November next.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F Gourdeau

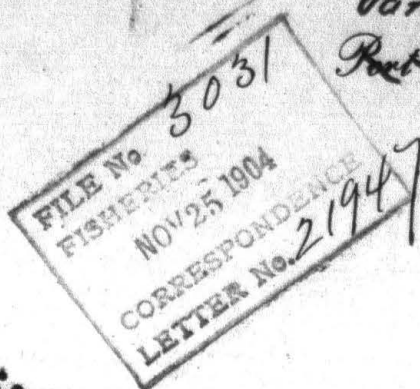
Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Jno. T. Williams, Esq.,

Inspector of Fisheries,

Port Essington, B. C.

Vancouver. Inspector's Office.
Port Eslington, B. C., Nov 15th 1904 190



Sir,

With reference to the laying up of the Cruiser "FALCON", for the months of November, December, January, and February, I may say that I received your letter re this matter, in which you instructed me to anchor her in Coal Harbour Vancouver, for said months; I beg now to recommend for your favorable consideration, that instead of Coal Harbour, she be placed at Morrisons Slip, in Vancouver, in the water always floating; Morrison has a night watchman and as per your instructions, Capt Brown is remaining on her at half pay;

my reasons for this suggestion are as follows; We have no anchor that will hold her in the winter winds, however good the harbour, then as I have had all the water taken out of the boiler and all machinery disconnected, it would be difficult to raise the anchor without steam, in the event of its fouling; I am having a small stove placed in the engine room, which the capt will attend to; She will be snug and safe at Morrisons slip and the charge will be only

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\$5 per month; I await your decision and instructions re this matter.

I am sir

Your obedient servant

John P. Williams

Inspector of Fisheries.

Commander Spain

Fisheries Protection Service

M.M.L.

Nov 22nd, 1904.

Sir:-

In reference to your letter of the 15th Nov.. in regard to laying up the "Falcon", your suggestion that this vessel be placed at Morrisons Slip instead of at anchor at Coal Harbour is approved. The Captain, as you have already been instructed is to remain on board at half pay. I understand that the charge for wintering the vessel at this place is \$5.00 per month.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Commander Marine Service of Canada.

Inspector John T. Williams,
Vancouver,

B.C.

Inspector's Office.

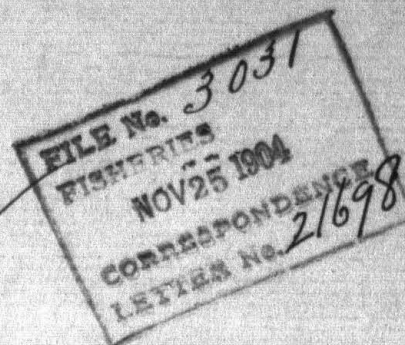
Port Essington, B. C., Oct 22nd 1904

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John T Williams Esq

Inspector of Fisheries.

Port Essington B. C.



Sir.-

I have the honor to submit the following report, of my work and observations during my visit of inspection, as Fishery officer, to the Babine Lake and tributaries, and the Head waters of the Skeena River.

As frequent rumours came to the Office that rivers and streams in the Upper Country were barricaded, and that Salmon were prevented from reaching their natural spawning grounds, it became necessary to send some one up to ascertain the facts, and if possible to remedy the evil.

So according to your instructions I left Port Essington, in company with Mr Nordschow, Fishery officer, the 6th Sept. on Str Hazelton, for Hazelton town on Upper Skeena, where we arrived on the 9th, distance 180 miles, after engaging an Indian and horses, and preparing our outfit, we left Hazelton for Babine Lake, on the 12th of Sept. and reached Babine Village on the 14th, distance 65 miles.

We were kindly received by Mr Waer, the gentleman in charge of the Hudson Bay post, whom I am much indebted to for valuable information, he told me that Chief George was away, and gave me the name of the next in command, whose name is Atio.

Self On the 15th we borrowed a little canoe, and hired two men and started down Babine River 7 miles, where we found two barricades half a mile apart, in full swing fishing, and crowds of Indians could be seen on the banks.

The barricades were constructed of an immense quantity of materials, and on scientific principals, I will endeavour to describe them, there were posts driven ⁱⁿ to the bed of the River, which is 200 feet wide, and from two to four feet deep, and running swiftly, at the intervals of 6 or 8 feet.

Then sloping braces well bedded in the bottom and fastened to the top of posts, then strong stringers all the way on top, and bottom, in front of posts, then pannels beautifully made, of slats woven together with bark set in front of all, these were set firmly into the bottom, and reaching 4 feet above the water, this made a magnificent fence which not a single fish could ^{get} through.

Fish Traps or
Bins

On the upper side of Dam were placed, 12 big Traps or fish bins, opposite holes made in the pannels for fish to enter the Traps, prepared with slides to open and shut, and if the Traps did not have a sufficient quantity of fish in them, when the women wanted more fish on the bank, the men would take their canoe poles, wade out in a line and strike the water, making a noise which would fill the Traps in a moment, then shut the slides down, take a canoe on each side of bin, raise the false bottom, by some contrivance, so as to elevate the fish, then load up canoes with gaff hooks.

Consultation
with Chief
Atio

Altogether the barricades presented a most formidable and imposing appearance.

I found Chief Atio at the lower barricade, he is an old man and does not know English, but had provided a good interpreter, I informed him that I was sent by the Government, to destroy and remove all barricades, and any other obstructions that prevented the Salmon from getting up to their natural Spawning grounds, that the Government had wisely adopted this policy on account of Salmon having sadly diminished in all the rivers along the coast, just on account of barricades, in nearly every stream throughout the whole country, that the fish

which providence intended to go into lakes and streams for the purpose of propagation, were slaughtered at the barricades, before they had Spawned, and I gave him to understand that the barricades must be removed immediately.

one At intervals during the conversation, I explained the fishery Laws, and Regulations, that they must not use barricades and only fish one third the channel with their nets or any other contrivance, that they must observe the close season, they must not sell fish as they had done in the past, but only take enough for themselves, and their families, and must not kill more fish than they use and not waste any.

The chief advanced many points and some of them were well taken, he said they have had an indisputable right for all time in the past, that if it was taken away the old people would starve, that by selling Salmon they could always get iktahs, and he wanted to know, to what extent the Government would support them, he thought it unfair to forbid them selling fish when the Cannerymen sold all theirs, and I had to promise him to tell the Government to compel the canners to let more fish come up the Rivers, as some years they did not get enough, ^{that the Cannerymen destroyed more Spawn than they, that formerly} he could not see the water below his barricades for fish, that they were so plentiful that some of them were forced out on the beach, but latterly they had diminished, little by little every year, I met all his arguments in a prompt manner, and set back those who showed a spirit of resistance, by telling them that they had committed a gross breach of the law, that they had put in their barricades this year notwithstanding the Inspector had by letter forbid them to do so, and that if they resist

Could not see
water for
Fish

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and do not destroy the barricades, nothing will save them from punishment or imprisonment.

At that a goodly number went and worked away in the cold ice water, chopping and breaking it down, after about two hours when they could ~~not~~ stand it no longer they came up to me and demanded, that the Government should pay for taking it out, and no amount of threats or persuasion, could get them at it again, and to end all the talk and to get the remainder of it out, I had to hire 6 Indians who took out the last stick; what was dry of the upper works they took on shore for fire wood, the rest they let go with the current.

Some of the fish bins they drag to shore;

Although it was the last of the season when we came there, the barricades were still fishing, and about 500 or 600 sockeyes had been landed that day, from each Trap, and these fish must have been principally females, as they showed an uncommon amount of spawn when cleaned.

re Dried
Salmon

River

The banks of the Babine have a lovely appearance at this place and a most wonderful sight met our eyes, when we beheld the immense array of dried Salmon, on either side, there was no less than 16 houses 30x 27x8 feet filled with Salmon from the top down so low that one had to stoop to get into them and also an immense quantity of racks, filled up outside, if the latter had stood close together, they would have covered acres and acres of ground, and though it was impossible to form an estimate, we judged it to be nearly three quarters of a million of fish at these two barricades, all killed before they had Spawned, and though the whole tribe had been working for six weeks and a half it was a wonder that so much Salmon could be massed together in that time.

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The owners of the upper barricade, had certain rights in the fish, yet they had to depend largely on the clemency of the people of the lower onato let the fish through for their supplies.

On the 17th left Babine Village to destroy barricades on streames along the Lake.

re Tatchi
River

On the 19th made Tatchi river, this is a great Sockeye stream on the west side of lake , nearly all the people had left, as fishing was over, they had taken away quite a lot of Fish and a great quantity of dried salmon was left, we destroyed their barricade and left.

re Tiltitcha
River

On the 20th made Tiltitcha of Parce River. This stream also comes in from the west, they had quit fishing and we only found two old women at home, only one family fish there, the man had gone to Babine Village, with a canoe load of dried salmon, they had piled the rest of their fish together and these amounted in bulk to the equal of three cords of wood, we demolished their barricade and came away.

re 15 mile
River

On the 21st we reached 15 mile River, and found it deserted, nearly all the fish had been removed, though I counted over 2000 left on a couple of racks, we destroyed the barricade and as usual took their trail in order to see what there was above, we soon came to a permanent Dam, a big cotton wood tree had been felled, across the river, well pinned up behind with rocks, in front were stakes and brush, with a multitude of dead fish, in front of it, the Dam was nearly as tight as a bottle, and forbade even a single fish to get up, though there were quite a quantity of fish above it, which had no doubt gotten over the Dam in a higher state of water, and like in the other two streams there were thousands of Sockeyes below that could not get up, well, amid a horrible stench, we chopped out the log, pulled the brush on shore, and cleared the center of channel for a space

of 30 feet, then made a bonfire of a big lot of pannels and baskets, then we left.

the three last rivers were very low, but in their normal state they are streams of considerable magnitude, and all famous Sockeye rivers, and we saw a multitude of Salmon in each, and many of them were still spawning, the spawning ground on these rivers extends for a half of three quarters of a mile, from their mouth and were almost covered with spawn, and about two thirds of it doing well, also there are splendid spawning grounds, from opposite Babine Village, running down the river for about two miles and a half, with beautiful bars in the middle, of river, all made into hills and hollows by the sockeye spawning, and only in one instance on the last named streams did we find a bar where the spawn had perished, on account of the water having left it dry.

Spawning
ground

On the 22nd we reached Beaver river, at head of lake, found a barricade a mile up stream still fishing but no people there, this river is about 100 feet wide 8 feet deep and mud bottom, the salmon go through it, and enters Bear creek 10 miles up where they spawn, there were two contrivances with which the fish were caught, in this barricade of a peculiar kind, a tunnel was made 6 feet wide nicely fitted into the wall of the barricade, and narrowed down to 1 foot in 12, then tunnels one foot wide were joined on which lead into a bin 40 feet above the Dam, where fish had accumulated, the other had a similar mouth and a small tunnel reached up stream a similar distance, fastened to stakes with ropes at intervals, we demolished the bin and tunnel first then we pulled up on the rope, on the other, here we found that the small tunnel, was securely closed at its end, it was wedged full of Sockeyes, all alive, they could not turn nor could they get back, we cut and disjointed

Beaver
River

everything and let the fish go, and had a fearful job getting all the deep pannels and posts out of the sticky bottom, and when we left, the river was full for a distance of material and debris,

only first run
of salmon
reach Babine
lake

AS I have already stated that no fish could get through, the great two great barricades at Babine, the question may be rightly be asked, how did the Salmon get into the lake, but this is easily explained, the Babine people do not care for the few straglers that come along first, they close their barricades when the fish begin to run good, so it can be easily seen that only part of the first run get into the lake, and there are no less than four barricades, along the lake to catch them,

There is only one redeeming feature, behind the old fort 25 miles from the village an arm of the lake runs into the east shore, where a large Creek runs in from the north, miners from America have to cross it, coming and going to their mines, some of them told us that there was a great quantity of fish in this creek, this season, and not disturbed as no one was fishing in that creek, there are other streams coming into this arm with a number of lakes on them, and the Indians told us that salmon formerly went up them in large numbers, but they were fished out with barricades, and no fishing had been done there for years, we were also told that the remains of numerous barricades, could yet be seen there.

Babine lake is a beautiful sheet of water, at either end there is a rolling country, for a few miles, but for a distance of 80 miles, the mountains cannot be seen, the shores on either side consist of unbroken plateaus, running along for miles,

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with gentle slopes all clad with willow birch interspersed with spruce, all the former had put on the golden hue, which made it the most beautiful and lovely sight to behold. ✓

On the 26th we left Babine and reached Hazelton on the 28th, I am greatly indebted to Mr Loring, Indian Agent at Hazelton, for valuable information, as to the names and locality of Indian Villages, etc, there are 2951 Indians in his District, Mr Loring kindly gave me a Salmon, caught at Kiskigas, which is branded on both sides with a W, or letter M, the Indians caught several of them, this year for the first time, it created quite an excitement among them, as the brand was so strikingly clear, before the fish was cut, they called it Government Salmon, where has it come from, can it be that the United States officials branded salmon when they branded seals on Pribeloff Islands,

Branded
Salmon

From information received I found it necessary to make a journey to Morrice Town, 30 miles up the Bulkley River, and when the heavy rain that lasted for days had abated, we left Hazelton on the 4th of October, and reached Morrice Town an Indian Village, situated on the west bank of the Bulkley River, on the 5th, this is a beautiful stream 140 miles long fully as large as the Babine, one of its branches heads within a few miles of Babine lake, its other two branches run in a southerly direction, and heads towards the Oatso country, it has numerous lakes, and was formerly one of the greatest propagating branches of the Skeena, but I found that the farmers of the valley told the truth, when they said that of late years the Indians were determined not let a single

Bulkley
River

Canyon
excluded

salmon pass them, at Morrice town we found only half a dozen Indians, and about a score of old women, who evidently knew our purpose as they gave us Hail Columbia, on examining the canyon I found it about 250 yards long, the narrowest part 18 feet wide, and from the numerous pathes, staging, ladders, etc, I could judge that the Canyon during the fishing season was lined with Indians, hooking and catching salmon, by every conceivable contrivance, they even shove out a long pole with a rope rove through the end of it, from one side to a crevice on the other side, bent ^d on the trap or basket, haul it to the other side lower it down, and when a sufficient quantity of salmon enter, they haul it back, & every salmon that comes up that foaming boiling caldron, goes into the little eddies for rest, and every eddy is filled with contrivances for his capture, but if indeed some of the fish are lucky enough to escape the multitude of hooks and traps, in the canyon, a worse fate awaits them at the Falls, immediately above, where the falls in low water during fishing season, is by all accounts 14 feet high. Behind the falls is an array of various kinds of traps and baskets, the salmon keeps on jumping incessantly, to get up, and falls back into the baskets, thus only a very few fish get up the river to the lake, and I could see no other way ^{to remedy the evil} in that narrow place, where the salmon is entirely at the mercy of the Indians, so by the authority of Sub sec 16, clause 5, chap 51, and others in the Fishery act, I placed a notice above the falls, and another at the lower end of the canyon, which strictly forbids fishing of any kind for a distance of 300 yards. I might ^{have} ~~of~~ excluded surface fly fishing but there are no Sports in the vicinity, On the 7th we left Morrice town and reached Hazelton on the 8th,

Falls
excluded

I beg to draw your attention to the necessity of spending a expenditure about \$500 to blast out two shelves of rocks, on the west recommended side of the Canyon in the Bulkley river, the water would then form a more uniform grade so that the fish could get up and replenish this noble river and lake.

Coppre
River

We left Hazelton on the 10th and reached Copper river on the 12th, this is also a river of considerable magnitude, and empties into the Skeena from the east, three miles below the Canyon, one of its forks heads close to the Telquor, the other runs north, and ends at the head of Kethijukla river, and is about 70 miles long, and has no less than 4 lakes of various sizes, formerly Copper river was numbered among the great salmon streams of the Skeena, until 15 years ago when a slide came down from the mountain with a tremendous rock in it some 15 miles up from its mouth, which formed a dam that made it impossible for the salmon to get up.

a prospector Mr F Allen who has been there recently and others, told me the Dam is 20 feet high, that in front of it was a mass of dead fish, enough to pollute the air in the whole neighbourhood, on the lakes above are numerous salmon houses deserted long ago, Mr Allen said that 500 or 600 dollars would blast the rock and clear away the Dam.

In view of the great necessity of replenishing the salmon in the two above named rivers, you cannot too strongly recommend, the expenditure of clearing out the obstructions, and it should be done this winter when powder provision etc, could be brought in with sleighs on the ice, it would be a great pity to allow those two rivers to be barren for another year.

On this trip 6 barricades have been destroyed, the Indians at fishing stations on the Skeena and in the upper country, have ^{had} the fishery laws and Regulations explained to them. One place has been exempted from fishing, yet it will not amount to much unless there are Guardians appointed, to enforce the Regulations, and if this is not done the Indians will surely put in their barricades next year as usual. To show how the Indians feel about loosing their barricades, I beg to call your attention to what occurred at Babine, meeting at Babine I was asked to attend a meeting of Indians, when I was informed by one who claimed to own the barricades, that if he had been present when the barricades were destroyed they would not have been touched, that unless the Government send him \$600 before the fish run next summer, the barricades would be surely be constructed again, though he should die for it, this he repeated several times, and I had to promise him that I would tell the Government so, This is the prevailing spirit amongst them, as they all wanted more or less in lieu of their barricades.

Appointments of guardians I therefore beg to suggest that three Guardians be appointed for the following places next season;

One for Babine, one for Hazelton, and one for the Skeena below Hazelton, and they should be good active men, who could ride a horse pole a canoe up stream, and move about quickly, as they will each of them have over a hundred miles to travel, men that can fill such positions cannot be got cheap, as wages are high and provisions etc are costly, in the Interior. Salmon used as an article of Commerce. The Indians do not only catch and cure salmon for their

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own use, but hoard it up every year for sale, and barter, it is a
Sale of dried salmon is a sort of legal tender amongst them, 10 salmon for a dollar
and so many for a blanket,; They sell dried salmon to packers
miners, to all those that haul with dog sleighs, in every part
of the upper country during winter, and to Marchants, every
Store keeper that I asked told me that they handled more or
less every year,; The Babine post had an order from Stuarts
Lake for 9000 dried salmon.

As mentioned before there are about 3000 Indians in Mr
Lorings District, and we can reckon safely on three to a
family which makes 1000 families, and I have it from good
authority that with dried and fresh salmon, it takes 1000
fish to supply a family during one year, so that it takes a
million of fish to supply the Indians in that District,
beside what they sell., to say nothing about the multitude of
Dogs that number nearly as many, and are continually feed
on dried salmon, and every fish almost without an exception is
killed before it is spawned, and when we take into consideration
that nearly every salmon stream in the country is barricaded
and that this has gone ^{on} for years and years, is it not then a
great wonder that there ^{are} any fish left at all.

I also beg to inform you that I was unable to engage a Special
Fishery Officer, for the Upper Skeena, at the conditions you
offered, and it would do no good, it would be like throwing
so much money away, as there are three active men wanted,
as I have already stated, and they will have their hands full,
for I was informed by Linemen and others, that the head
waters of the Skeena, Kispiax, Blackwater, Kitmangar, and Naas
Rivers, are all barricaded every year, in a shameful manner,

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and the Guardians of the Upper Skeena, should be retained longer in the season, and be sent round to such places, as it is the best time of the year for travelling, and the Indians are all fishing, by so doing much good could be effected, and much evil prevented.

We called at the principal fishing stations coming down in our skiff, and arrived in Port Essington on the 14th of Oct.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I am Sir

Your obedient servant

H. Helgesen
Fishery Officer.

Dominion Fisheries.

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D. G. S. Falcon 25
late Ruth

Inspector's Office,

in B.C.

Port Essington, B. C. ~~1904~~ 190

FW

FILE No. 3031
FISHERIES
DEC 6 1904
CORRESPONDENCE
LETTER No. 22089

Sir,

(789)

Adverting to your letter of the 22nd inst. in relation to laying up the "FALCON", I beg to say that your instructions have been complied with and the vessel now lays at Morrisburg Slip, with the crew for the winter. The Captain remains in command of the vessel and the charge for wintering the vessel is being made.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant,

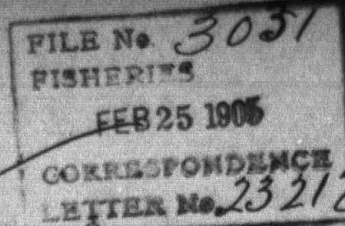
John. P. Williams

Inspector of Fisheries

RECEIVED
MARINE DEPARTMENT
OTTAWA

DOMINION FISHERIES.

3031



76

File

Inspector's Office,

VANCOUVER
PORT ESSINGTON, B.C.,

February 17th 1905

Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 11th inst, 9320
in which you inform me that the Hon the Minister
has approved of the appointment of Mr George Green-
shields as engineer of the Cruiser "FALCON";
I may inform you that I have this day seen Green-
shields and informed him of his appointment.
With regard to the commissioning of the vessel
I may say that in a previous letter dated the
14th of January 1905, you instructed me to have the
vessel ready for commission on the 1st of
March next; this was the date I recommended to you
when I was in Ottawa last September; I have there-
fore made my arrangements accordingly.
Trusting this will meet with your approval.

*OK
off*

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant,

John. P. Williams

Inspector of Fisheries

Commander O. G. V. Spain,
Marine Service of Canada,
OTTAWA.

TELEPHONE 273.

ALL CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS ARE CONTINGENT UPON STRIKES AND OTHER DELAYS UNAVOIDABLE OR BEYOND OUR CONTROL.

RESIDENCE PHONE 336.

Vancouver, B.C. 15th March 27 1905
Messrs Capt & Owners D. G. S. Falconi

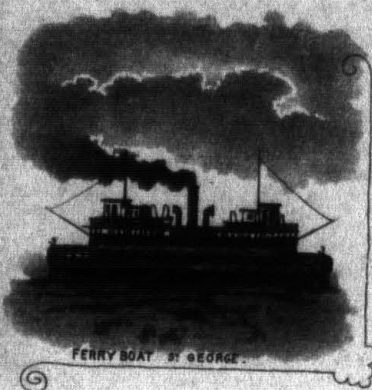
IN ACCOUNT WITH

A. WALLACE

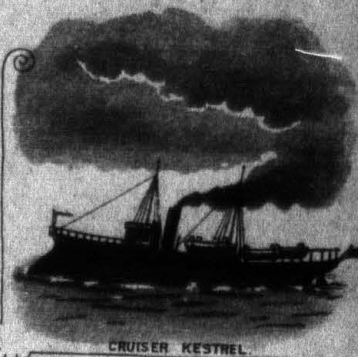
SHIP AND BOAT BUILDER

MARINE WAYS GRANVILLE STREET.

STEAM BOATS AND SAILING SHIPS, TUGS, STERN WHEELERS, STEAM YACHTS AND
LAUNCHES, SCOWS AND LIGHTERS, SHIPS, WOOD AND METALLIC LIFE BOATS,
COLUMBIA RIVER CARVEL AND CLUNKER, FISHING BOATS, PLEASURE BOATS. A
SPECIALTY. ALL CLASSES OF REPAIRING PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.



FERRY BOAT ST. GEORGE.



CRUISER KESTREL.

To New Pilot House Bridge Deck

Brass Rail, Ladder etc as per Contract \$854.00

\$854.00

*See
copy.*

Copy of account as sent to Department
in my monthly returns.

John T Williams

Inspector of Fisheries.

I hereby certify to the correctness
of this account and that the prices
charged are fast and just.

John T. Williams
Inspector of Fisheries.

DOMINION FISHERIES.

3031

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*See
895.*

Inspector's Office,

VANCOUVER
PORT ESSINGTON, B.C.,

FILE No.	3031
FISHERIES	
APR 10 1905	
CORRESPONDENCE	
LETTER No.	24/84

March 30th 1905/90

Sir:-

I may inform you that Mr Wallace has completed the alterations to the Cruiser "FALCON" that you authorized, as per specification enclosed, and I consider he has done excellent work, I have therefore certified the account and herewith forward you a copy, as sent to the Department in my monthly statement, I trust this will meet with your satisfaction.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant,

John. J. Williams

Inspector of Fisheries.

Commander O.G.V. Spain. R.N.

Marine Service of Canada.

OTTAWA.

DOMINION FISHERIES.

3031
Inspector's Office, ✓

PORT ESSINGTON, B.C.

29
FILE No 3031
FISHERIES
APR 26 1905
CORRESPONDENCE
SER N 24290

April 17th 1905. 190

Noted
File R.W.
21 April 1905
Sir:

*File W.
H.D.*
I may inform you that I am leaving on a tour of inspection of all the Fisheries in my District, for the purpose of issuing licenses, and other important matters, I shall probably be away until about the 10th of May.

Please address all letters and telegrams to Port Essington in future.

I am Sir

Your obedient servant.

John. P. Williams

Inspector of Fisheries.

Professor E. E. Prince.

Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries.

OTTAWA.

3031

38

6

2nd May, 1905.

Sir,

I have your letter of the 20th ultimo, in which you call attention to an error in the dimensions of the "FALCON", as given in the Marine Report for 1904, of which a note has been made for correction in the next issue.

I have also received the photograph of this cruiser, for which I thank you.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

O. C. V. Spain

Commanding Canadian Marine Service.

John T. Williams, Esq.,
Inspector of Fisheries,
Vancouver, B. C.

COPY
XXXXXXXXXX

Hazleton, Upper Skeena B.C.
July 30th 1906

34

John T Williams Esq
Inspector of Fisheries,
PORT ESSINGTON B.C.

Dear Sir:-

I respectfully beg to submit the following report; Having been appointed Overseer in charge of Fishery Guardians for the Upper Skeena, I proceeded to set the expedition in order, and left Essington on the 16th inst, in company with Stewart Norrie and Charles Jones, both appointed Fishery Guardians. I was in hopes of meeting Henry Frank on our way up at the Canyon, who was also appointed, but he failed to show up, and I was told he would not accept the appointment, so I gave the position to J Wells a likely person who had applied for it and was aboard.

We landed at Hazelton on the 18th, I consulted Mr Loring the same day who told me he had previously warned the Indians, not to prepare the barricades.

On the 19th we landed freight and I bought a Horse and saddle for Norrie for use on Beat No 2,

On the 20th I sent C Jones down to the mouth of Kitman-ga on beat No 1, to go up the Kitwano Lake, where it is said the Indians are using barricades every year, and to report on the situation.

On the 21st we left Hazelton for Babine with five horses and one Indian in company with J Wells and S Norrie, who

parted with us at the Huggins trail, as I sent him to Mrrice town on the Bulley to see that the fishery Regulations were observed and to report.

On the 23rd Sunday we reached Babine village, the Indians received me well, and were glad to see me, and seemed to be very pleased over the fishing gear I had brought them. By the help of Mr Wagar and J Halls, who both know the tribe well, I compiled a list of the names of all those that were entitled to a net.

On the 24th I drove two stakes a hundred feet apart, and wound out all the web around them, now there were 57 names and I had 56 lengths, of net and 30 feet over, so it came out to a nicety.

Every thing went well until I opened the web, but as soon as they found out that the web had been used and was old, their countenances fell, and they got highly indignant and did not want it, not with standing I assured them that the web was strong enough to hold every salmon that got into it.

But nothing would recencile them, so I told them the gear did not cost them any thing that it was a free gift of the Cannerymen, and if they did not want it to say the word, and I would put it all in the Hudson Bay Store, and leave it there.

But this did not suit either, so the next move was to have a meeting in the Chief's house, thither we all went. The old Chief is a deep and very crafty man seeking continually to entangle me by promises and various concessions, he wanted to know if he could barter both sides

of the River and leave the centre open, this I could not consent to; Now there is an island in the middle of the River, situated between where the barricades stood, and he wanted to barricade one of the Channels, but I could not allow that either.

Up to this time I had met their arguments with no effect, they speak in a rough way and were very indignant, so I saw nothing for it but to be firm, and I stood up and opened my battery on them, in an unmistakeable manner, that had the effect of taking the bombast out of them, and I proposed to leave the Council, but this they would not hear of, they said they had implicit confidence in me, if they only could get me to promise certain things.

One of the conditions was that I bring them new sockeye web every year, and that they receive some assistance if they do not get salmon enough under the new regime, as they are afraid of starvation next winter.

I promised them I would write to the Inspector and find out if new web could be had every year; It will take the web of two sockeye nets to suffice, and they should be made of finer twine, as it is doubtful if they will catch much with the web I brought up, as the water is very clear, I trust you will let me know that the new web will be forth coming next year.

In council I took a list of the old men and women they are 15 in all, some of them were some friendless and all unable to get their food themselves, and if I find out the latter end of the season, that there is not sufficient salmon put up, for all, something has got to be done for these people, in the way of assistance, as starvation is a fearful thing, and it all will not amount to much, in

comparison with having all the salmon killed, and if there is a necessity for it, it has got to come from somewhere, as I don't want to sacrifice life.

Any how I am glad to say this meeting ended in great friendship, and good will with the understanding that I should do my utmost with the Government in their behalf. We then proceeded to divide the fishing gear.

On the 25th I went down Babine river to where the barracades were erected last year, saw no dams and no preparations for any.

I bought a canoe for Wells, and on the 26th sent him up the Lake, and came away reaching Hazelton on the 28th, having travelled 20 miles through forest fires, the whole country is on fire, the Operator told me they have had in the neighbourhood of 100 miles of line burnt. On my return here I found Mr Norrie, who had got along well at Morricetown, though they had been fishing with baskets, on the forbidden ground at the Falls, and had caught a big lot of salmon, he got them to take out the traps, and they promised not to fish there again, but they will bear watching.

I will send Norrie some time this week up to Kispiox, and on by the Telegraph trail to Blackwater Lake. Jones will be visiting the various streams on his boat. All of which is respectfully submitted.

Your obedient servant

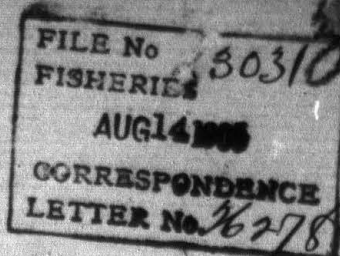
H. Holgeson

Fishery Overseer.

DOMINION FISHERIES.

Inspector's Office,

PORT ESSINGTON, B.C.,



Memo to Commissioner

August 5th 1905

RM
15 Aug. 1905

Sir:-

file 23

Referring to my letter of July 17th 1905, in which I informed the Department of my action in connection with the protection of our Upper Skeena Fisheries, I herewith beg to enclose Mr Helgesen's first report, on these fisheries, which speaks for itself.

I am gratified at being able to inform the Department that matters are progressing satisfactorily, and there is no probability of our having tribal trouble, with the Indians, of course we may have individual cases of infringement of the Fisheries Act, but I do not anticipate any combined opposition. I may inform the Department that I have written Mr Helgesen that his wishes and recommendations with regard to the Department supplying the Indians with new web next year, to catch their winters supply of food, will be approved, and that they will be supplied with about \$150 to \$200 worth of new sockeye web, for this purpose.

I trust the Department will sanction this action on my part.

With regard to the possibility of the old and infirm people starving this winter, I have informed

35-

him, that if in his opinion, at the end of the season, this is likely to occur, that our Department will communicate with the Indian Department in this connection and that I have no doubt the matter will be satisfactorily adjusted.

I have instructed Mr Helgesen to report to me on the quantities and different kinds of salmon that reach the principle Rivers, Lakes and streams, for the purposes of propagation.

Also he will report on the Copper River obstructions.

I have advanced Mr Helgesen \$200.00^{cash} for initial expenses, which he will account to me for, and I shall forward these accounts to the Department in due course, in the mean time I am forwarding such accounts as have not been paid, in my usual monthly statements.

Trusting these arrangements will meet with the approval and sanction of the Department.

I am Sir

Your obedient servant

John. L. Williams

Inspector of Fisheries

Professor E. E. Prince

Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries.

OTTAWA

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- MEMORANDUM -

FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

***** : *****

I have read this very interesting report of Guardian Helgesen of his recent trip to the Upper Skeena, and it would seem as if he has found a way out of the difficulty with the Indians.

THE action of supplying these Indians with \$200.00 worth of Sockeye net each year would seem to provide a favourable solution and in my opinion a very reasonable one; but it appears to me that our Department should not be called upon to supply these nets, as it would seem to be a fair obligation for the Indian Department to incur.

I think it might be well to send a copy of this report to the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, for his information, with the suggestion that the Department's Guardians should be annually provided with a sufficient sum for the purchase of these nets.

R.N. Venning.

*Indian Dept
written
EEF*
Aug 21/05
Ottawa,
August 15th., 1905.

DOMINION FISHERIES.

Inspector's Office,

PORT ESSINGTON, B.C.,

October 1st 1905

Sir:-

I may inform you that I shall be able to dispense with the services of the Cruiser "FALCON", on or about the 15th of November next, until the 1st of March 1906, coinciding with last years arrangement; I may suggest for your consideration, that the modus operandi of last season was very satisfactory, viz that she be layed up at Morrison's Slip, at a monthly rental of \$5.00, and that the Captain's services be retained at half pay, to look after her during that time.

I might also suggest, that the Dominion Government Boiler Inspector, should make a thorough examination of her, before she leaves for her work in my District next season.

As you are aware she has not been inspected, since the Department purchased her in April 1904.

Awaiting your instructions.

I am Sir

Your obedient servant

John T. Williams
Inspector of Fisheries.

Commander O. G. V. Spain R. N.

OTTAWA

3031

40

G

13th October, 1905

Sir,

I have to instruct you to make a thorough examination of the Fisheries Protection Cruiser "FALCON" when she is laid up this season, and report to the Department here what repairs you consider are necessary before being commissioned for next season's work.

Inspector Williams will communicate with you on the subject, and you can arrange with him to do this work at a time suitable to you both.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F Courdeau

Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

F. M. Richardson, Esq.,
Government Boiler Inspector,
Vancouver, B. C.

3031.

41
13th October, 1905.

Sir,

In reference to your letter of the 1st instant, I have to instruct you to carry out the same arrangements as last year in reference to laying up the "FALCON".

Mr. Richardson, the Boiler Inspector at Vancouver, has been instructed to thoroughly overhaul this cruiser after she goes out of commission, and you might see him and make arrangements for him to do this at a time suitable to the both of you. After Mr. Richardson has made a thorough examination of the "FALCON" he will report to the Department what repairs he considers are necessary.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

O G V Spain

Commanding Canadian Marine Service.

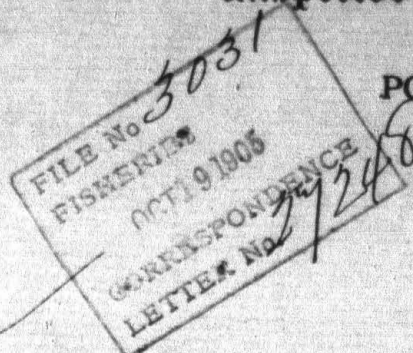
John T. Williams, Esq.,
Inspector of Fisheries,
Port Essington, B. C.

DOMINION FISHERIES.

Inspector's Office,

PORT ESSINGTON, B.C.,

October 7th 1905. 190



Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 21st inst. in which you request me to send a full report in connection with the Upper Skeena Fisheries, for the guidance of the Department.

I may say that I will send the Department a full and exhaustive report within a month from date. I am expecting Mr Helgesen down from the Upper Skeena on the 16th inst, when he will hand me his report for his seasons work, this will enable me to place before the Department a more complete and comprehensive report than is possible with the detail I have on hand at the present time;

If however the report is urgent and will not admit of delay, kindly wire me on receipt of this letter and I will forward a report that will enable the Department to reply intelligibly to the Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

I am Sir

Your obedient servant

John. J. Williams
Inspector of Fisheries.

R. N. Venning Esq

Assistant Commissioner of Fisheries.

OTTAWA

Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Telegraph

T. B. FORM 12



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All messages are received by this Company for transmission, subject to the terms and conditions printed on their Blank Form No. 2, which terms and conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message. This is an unrepeat message, and is delivered by request of the sender under these conditions.

J. WILSON, Supt., Vancouver, B.C.

A. W. BARBER, Supt., Toronto, Ont.

J. O. F. RICHARDSON, Supt., Montreal, Que.

P. W. SNIDER, Supt., St. John, N.B.

JAS. KENT,

Manager Telegraphs, Montreal.

A 7 RA JO H 8.35 A.M.

28 Collect 1 ex

RED

Victoria B.C. Nov. 15---16'05

Commander Spain

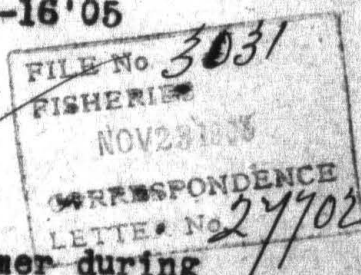
M & F.

Ottawa.

Fisheries district no three in urgent need of steamer during herring season and other fisheries suggest that inspector be given use of Falcon during winter months.

W. Sloan

Nanaimo





43

Memo.

The Falcon is a steamer used under Inspector Williams in B.C. and is now laid up about to be laid up for the winter.

Mr. Sloan requests that she be handed over to the Inspector for the adjoining district during the months usually laid up.

The recent distribution of Fishery Districts in B.C. necessitates a steamer for Inspector Taylor at times and I would recommend Mr. Sloan's request be complied with. The additional cost would probably be \$1000.

R.W.

16 Nov 1905

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Memorandum
Rm 16 Nov 05

OTTAWA 16th November 1905.

J.T. Williams
Inspector Fisheries.
Port Essington B.C.
or forward.

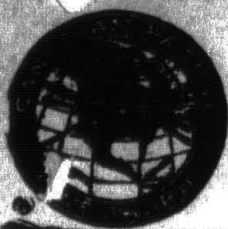
If "Falcon" not laid up await decision
Minister as to turning her over to Inspector
Taylor.

Chg M & F.

R.N. Venning
Assistant Commissioner

Rm

Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Telegraph



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J. WILSON, Supt., Vancouver, B.C.

W. J. CAMP, Supt., Montreal, Que.
A. W. BARBER, Supt., Toronto, Ont.

JAN. KIRK,
Manager Telegraphs, Montreal.

A 119 RA JO H 2.45 P.M.

23 Collect, 2 ex

Vancouver B.C. Nov. 17 '05

R. N. Venning

Ass't Commr Fisheries

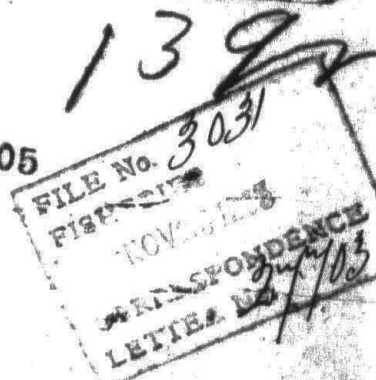
Ottawa.

Cruiser Falcon can be ready for inspector Taylor's use in one week from receipt of instructions from department, wire here.

*See telegrams
Hether
20 Nov 1905
RM*

John T. Williams

Inspector Fisheries



46
6
Ottawa 20th November 1905

Wm. Sloan M.P.

Nanaimo. B.C.

Steamer " FALCON " will be handed over to
Inspector Taylor as suggested.

F. Gourdeau

Chg M & F.

Deputy Minister

RW

47
9
Ottawa 20th November 1905.

J.T.Williams
Inspector Fisheries
VANCOUVER. B.C.

Arrange to hand "FALCON" over to Inspector
Taylor for Fisheries Service.

R.N.Venning

Chg M & F.

Assistant Commissioner

RM

J.V.W.

48
21st November 1905

Sir,-

The department has decided that this year, instead of laying up the steamer "Falcon" during the winter months to place her under the charge of Inspector Taylor for fisheries service, until no longer required by him or pending such time as it is necessary for her to resume her usual work under your supervision.

You will please act accordingly in the line of your telegram of 17th instant, and afford Inspector Taylor any assistance and advice he may require to enable him to best avail himself of her services.

A copy of this letter has been sent to Mr Taylor for his information and guidance.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant.

R N Venning

Assistant Commissioner of Fisheries

Mr J.T. Williams

Inspector of Fisheries

Vancouver B.C.

Taylor

Taylor

Bella and Rivers Inlet Hospital

R. W. LARGE, M.D. - MEDICAL SUPT.

Bella Bella, B.C.

Nov 8th

1905

To Jno. T. Williamson Esq.
Inspector of Fisheries
Port Essington.

This is to certify
that Thomas Dodge, Steward of Cruiser
Falcon, was an inmate of the Bella Bella
Hospital from Oct 22nd '05 to Nov 8th '05
suffering from Erysipelas of the legs.

As he had to have a private ward with
a special nurse to look after him on
account of Infection, the charges for
his Hospital & medical treatment are
\$36⁰⁰ which I would be pleased if
you could secure from the Dept of
Marine & Fisheries, Ottawa -

Signed R. W. Large M.D.
Med Supt

Inspector's Office,

PORT ESSINGTON, B.C.,

Nov 13th 1905, 190

Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 13th ult in which you instruct me with reference to the laying up of the Cruiser "FALCON", your instructions shall be carried out.

I have this day seen Mr Richardson and made arrangements according to your instructions.

I may inform you that the Cook on the "FALCON" was taken ill with erysipelas on the 22nd of October last and I had to take him to the Bella Bella Hospital, I herewith enclose Dr Large's account for Medical attendance, Will you kindly instruct me whether the Department pay this bill or the cook himself, his name is Thomas Dodge, if the Department intend to settle same please send me a cheque for the amount.

I may also inform you that I have already paid the amount of \$36.00^{wages} for cooking on the Falcon during the absence of Thomas Dodge, please inform me whether I am to deduct from his wages the 18 days he was absent from his work.

I may say this man has a wife and six small children.

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to support, but doubtless the Department has the usual precedent to follow.

I am Sir

Your obedient servant

John J. Williams

Inspector of Fisheries.

Commander O. G. V. Spain R. N.

Marine Service of Canada

OTTAWA